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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADS [illegible] CA-01 SY-05 SSO-00 SYE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1969

EXCISE

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0336

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC ASEC PINS PINT ES SO
SUBJ: W/W JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BLAKEN/DION OF 1/14/81

1. CONSUL HAS LEARNED THAT SALVADORAN CITIZEN HAS APPROACHED SULLIVAN FAMILY CLAIMING THAT SON IS BEING HELD HERE BY NATIONAL POLICE. CONSULAR OFFICER SPOKE AGAIN TODAY WITH ASSISTANT POLICE DIRECTOR WHO ASSURED HER THAT SULLIVAN IS NOT IN POLICE CUSTODY.

2. POST HAS ALWAYS HAD FULL COOPERATION FROM NATIONAL POLICE IN RELATION TO THE DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZENS. THIS HAS BEEN TRUE NOT ONLY IN CRIMINAL CASES, BUT ALSO IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ONES SUCH AS [redacted] AND [redacted] IT DOES NOT SEEM REASONABLE THAT THEY WOULD DENY CUSTODY OF SULLIVAN WHEN THEY HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN FULL COOPERATION IN THE PAST.

3. POST BELIEVES THAT SALVADORAN WHO APPROACHED SULLIVAN FAMILY MAY BE AN EXTORTIONIST FROM A LEFTIST GROUP, ATTEMPTING TO GET MONEY FROM THE FAMILY AND TO DISCREDIT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF EL SALVADOR. DEPARRMENT IS REQUESTED TO PRESENT THIS POINT OF VIEW TO FAMILY AND STRESS THAT POLITICAL TERRORISM COMES BOTH FROM THE FAR LEFT AND FAR RIGHT HERE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO SUPPORT A MIDDLE OF THE ROAD REGIME. TO ACCUSE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT OR POLICE OFFICIALS OF HIDING SULLIVAN WOULD BE TO ACCUSE THEM OF BEING FAR RIGHT TERRORISTS. THEIR PAST RECORD WITH THE EMBASSY PROVES THEY ARE NOT AND THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS COOPERATED ON CITIZENSHIP/ARREST CASES. PLEASE STRESS THESE POINTS TO THE FAMILY.
WHITE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 15 1984
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TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b6

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CONSULAR AFFAIRS
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